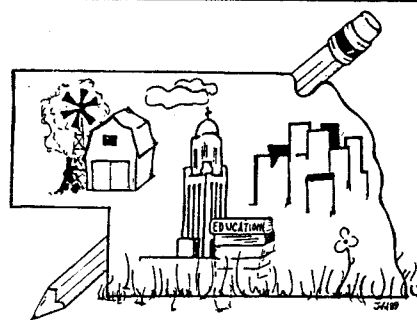
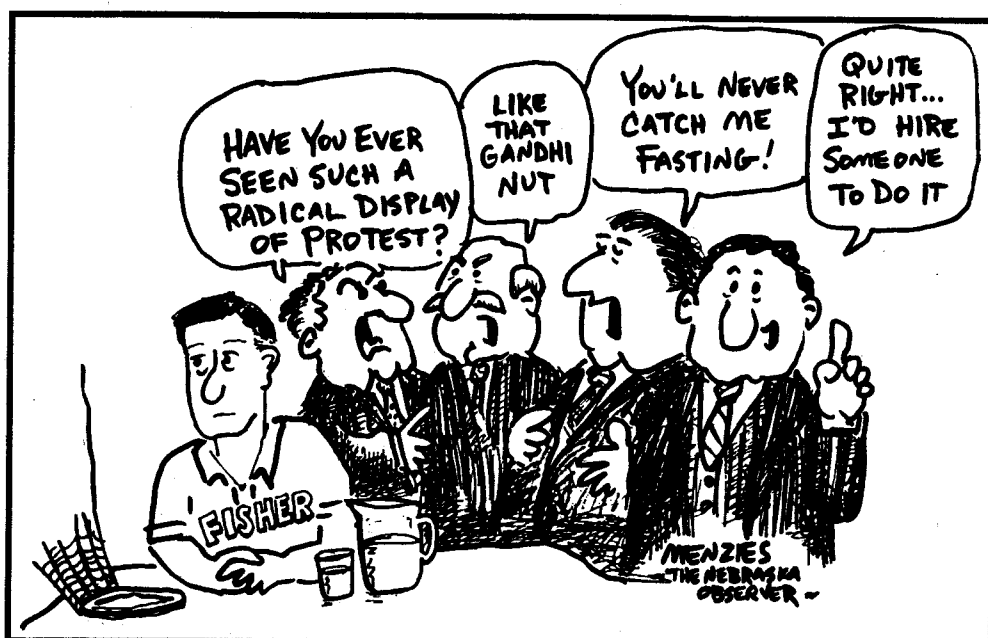


The Nebraska Observer

Vol. 5, No. 10, October 4, 1990



Rancher's Fast Protests Boyd County Dump Site



by Frances Mendenhall

"You do it one day at a time," said Lowell. "If you look too far down the road, it's too hard."

Lowell Fisher is the cattle rancher from Boyd County who is on an open-ended water only fast to demand that Gov. Orr keep her word. The governor's promise was that community consent be the first criterion for siting the low-level waste dump. Lowell says that there is no such thing in Boyd County.

The Butte town board approved, Lowell says, but they have no authority over what's out in the country outside the city limits. The site lies in McCulley township which has no village. The McCulley township board passed a resolution unanimously opposed to dump. The County Board issued an invitation July 25, 1988, but it was conditional upon a vote of the people. Otherwise the Board said it would oppose the siting. By January 10, 1989, 1,107 registered voters had signed a petition opposing the siting. This is a lot of people in Boyd County, when you consider that only 1500 had voted in last general election. On that day the County Board withdrew its (conditional) invitation.

The governor has said that "community consent" was never intended to mean a vote of the people. The Legislature also defeated an amendment to a bill that would have required a vote.

No criteria for community consent have been offered by the Legislature or the Governor, so Lowell offered his own, election in all the school districts that fall all or in partly within a 10-mile radius. State lines, county lines should have no bearing since the dump

site is four and three-quarter miles from South Dakota.

The World-Herald seemed to resent Lowell's tactic. Their story called it a hunger strike, used the word "blackmail" on their Sunday front page, and whined about Fisher's "radical course." The editorialist couldn't seem to think of any precedents where non-violent figures such as Gandhi or Mitch Snyder fasted for good causes. Not surprisingly, the writer was also unaware of the numerous times Omaha peace activists have fasted to protest aid to the contras, aid to El Salvador, or the nuclear arms race. Even now there is a fast going on at Ft. Benning, Ga. to demand an end to the U.S. support of the government of El Salvador.

Instead, the writer recalled a prisoners' strike in Nebraska in 1985, and the deaths by fasting of the members of the Irish Republican Army in the late 1970s.

The paper's response was not unlike that of the Governor's office. Why can't he just be reasonable and accept the fact that he doesn't get his way this time. Both sides cannot have their way. As if there might be a next time. As if there were a chance that they might build a nuke dump on the grounds of the World-Herald or the Governor's front lawn.

Lowell is not discouraged. There has been a lot of support locally and from all over the state, he says. He describes a vigil at the site September 26 when as many as 1000 people stood shoulder to shoulder for nearly a mile. In sparsely populated Boyd County, that's a lot of people.

Since the fast began, there have been candle light vigils every Saturday evening in Lin-

coln (7:30 at the Federal Building). Several journalists have done stories on the fast. Lowell gets encouraging mail every day.

Lowell believes he will prevail. "I have read up on the strategy of fasting," he says. There are three things that characterize fasts that have worked historically; the cause must be just, the person must have credibility, and he must be right.

He is convinced that he has all those things in his favor. "We have spent over two years making every kind of reasonable appeal that you can imagine," he says. People know that he is right and that he has been reasonable.

Still, some damage cannot be undone. "We have a county that's been destroyed. Society has literally been destroyed in Boyd County. You have families that are split. You can't put those things back together," he said.

Lowell plans to fast until the governor changes her mind or is defeated. The governor has not changed her mind, but says she is praying for him.

Meanwhile, Lowell grows weaker by the day. He had lost 21 pounds when I spoke to him two weeks into his fast. He was not sleeping well and his hands were cold. Lowell told me he uses a dual control electric blanket so he can keep his half set on high.

But his resolve is firm. "There's no reason to store nuclear waste where there's agriculture, ground water, or where people live," he says.

But the governor's office maintains that it is a federal issue. "The reason why we face this issue is because of a federal law," said Bud Cuca, the governor's aide. Fisher has a different view of the national picture. "This same drama is being acted out elsewhere, but other states are waiting to see what we do.

Ours could wind up being the only dump east of Rockies."

Ultimately, Lowell feels that citizens' rights are at stake. "Can state government decide to sell one small rural county to out of state corporations just because we have a few votes? If it can happen to Boyd county it can happen to others," he says.

But he says it in a very quite voice.

Lowell Fisher has a wife, four children and 1,300 acres where he raises cattle. His family supports his fast.

Lowell Fisher's address is:

RR 1, Box 10

Spencer, NE 68777.

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Thanks to All Who Helped

by Frances Mendenhall

I heard a story of a shelter in Omaha where they had a fire recently. Although it was greatly inconvenient in the short run, no one was injured, and in the long run, good came of it. Why? Because a lot of people donated money.

What we had here at the Observer in August wasn't exactly a fire, but it sure was inconvenient. What happened was major problems with our computer. What resulted was an appeal for funds that you responded to most kindly. So far our fund drive has allowed us to purchase a new computer that is truly up to the task of desktop publishing. That alone is a huge help. But donations are still trickling in, and I believe that by next month we will be able to get a high resolution monitor which will speed up the work of producing this little paper a great deal. Thank you, thank you.

By the way, don't ever let anyone convince you that computers are wonderful. They make your life hell before they make it better. And desktop publishing has got to be the worst application.

Goodbye to Tony

This month we said a reluctant goodbye to Tony Carr, who has contributed a great deal of know-how, patience, creativity, and wit to the production of the Observer. Tony labored long and well and deserves a rest, besides a lot of gratitude.

Back at the Observer, however, there are some holes to fill. Big ones. If anyone is knowledgeable about laser printers, we could use your help. We also badly need an expert in the software, PageMaker. The rewards are long hours and lots of work. But the camaraderie is nice and so is the sense of empowerment. Look at it this way: freedom of the press may be limited to those that own one, but anyone who can outsmart these darn computers actually owns one! You may also notice that a lot of the articles in this issue were written by yours truly. This is not because I have lonely hours to fill with the self expression of creative journalism. It is because sometimes in an operation run on volunteer energy, there isn't enough volunteer

energy. There is also room at the Observer for writers. Call me if you have a story idea.

The Counter Press Club Ball

Oh, yes. The Counter Press Club Ball. Notice I did not say the *annual* Counter Press Club Ball. After a couple months of false starts at getting meetings together, complicated by a multitude of other things that were going on, it became evident that the event that we all look forward to was not to be enjoyed this year.

There are other things going on, however. Bob Eisenberg has offered to hold a special event to raise funds and subscriptions--and have fun--at his house. That could happen before Thanksgiving. It will be a good chance to visit and get acquainted.

Look for the *biennial* Counter Press Club Ball next year. It probably should not be added to the hassles of fall in an election year like this one, but every other year would be nice.

Correction

In last month's article about the Department of Environmental Control, we cited a high turnover rate due to "salaries that are 30 to 80 percent lower" than elsewhere. It should have read 30 to 40%.

MY MISSION IN LIFE

1

**TO AFFLICT THE COMFORTABLE
as publisher of the Nebraska Observer.**

2

**TO COMFORT THE AFFLICTED
as Frances Mendenhall, D.D.S.**

*If your teeth are in need of comforting,
please call for an appointment.*

Frances Mendenhall

New Address:
1325 N. Saddle Creek

Same Phone
551-2629

Observer Deadlines

The next issue of the Nebraska Observer will be published October 31.
Story ideas are due October 17. Copy is due October 24.

Story ideas for the November 29 issue are due November 16. Copy is due November 21

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They should include the author's phone number and address. Works may be published under a pseudonym at the discretion of the editor.

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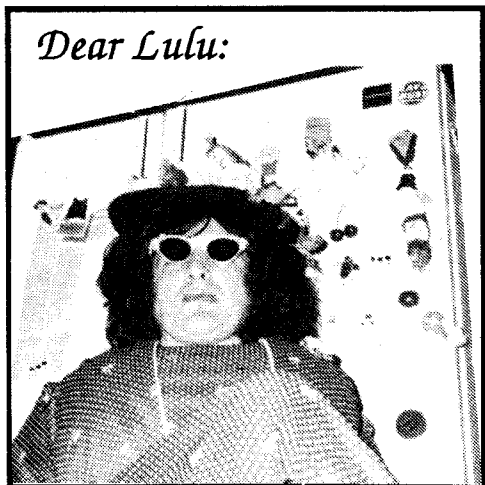
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*The Nebraska Observer needs at least \$20 per year from every employed member.

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Travel Tip: When In Iraq, Be Saddam's Guest

Dear Lulu:



knows. It's sad, especially since the little HeadLady is trying her darnedest to show she has a heart as big as all outdoors--and a new wardrobe. Should you drive over them? Well, that's up to you and your prejudices. Either way, it was nice of you to notice them.

Love, Lulu.

Dear Lulu:

I see that Saddam Hussein is keeping 2,000 Americans as "guests" in Iraq and Kuwait. I stayed at a guest house in Detroit once and really loved it. How do I get on the list to go to Iraq? Is there a toll-free number?

Love, A Traveler in Tecumseh.

Dear Traveler:

The only similar "guest" houses I can think of were the Gulag and my mother-in-law's den. The toll-free number is 1-800-NUT-CAKE. Take plenty of reading material.

Love, Lulu.

Dear Lulu:

I am so happy they have finally found John Doe--and in Liberia! I loved the movie

where Jimmy Stewart played him on his trip to Washington. And now, where is his wife Mary?

Love, A Fan in Fremont.

Dear Fan:

You seem to be confusing several things. First, the recent murder was of Samuel Doe, President of Liberia. Second, it was Mr. Smith who went to Washington. Third, Doe's wife's name is Doe Doe. And, fourth, please don't write to me again.

Love, Lulu.

Dear Lulu:

My brother was always the favorite in the family. He always got to eat what he wanted. But, now we're grown and I'm happily married and he just can't stand it. He can't keep a job, he has an eating addiction and personal hygiene problem. But now he has started parting his hair in the middle because he thinks he's going to take over the Pat Sajak Show now that Pat is fired. The family is aghast. What can we do?

Love, Chapped in Chambers.

Dear Chapped:

God has made few mistakes in his time, but included amongst the few are Sandy Duncan, guacamole and the Pat Sajak Show. Never trust a man who parts his hair in the middle. I suggest you give your brother some of your old frocks. This will divert his attention long enough to allow you and the family to move out of town. Good luck.

Love, Lulu.

Dear Lulu:

I think you are very unfair in saying all those nasty things about Sandy Duncan--how she looks like Peter Pan with a thyroid condition; how she's the only thing worse than frozen bowels; or how you scream at the Wheat Thin commercials, "Look at me, look at me!" I think it's disgusting. Why don't you do what I do--try to look just like her, the little cutie! Wouldn't it be grand if I could be Sandy Duncan's dresser and got to dress her up every day, just like a Barbie? What do you think would look good on Sandy Duncan?

Love, Sandyfan from Sand Creek.

Dear Sandyfan:

A pit bull.

Love, Lulu.

Lobbied by Youth For Peace, Others

Exon: El Salvador Must Improve Human Rights

by Frances Mendenhall

Nebraska's Senator Jim Exon was one of seven swing votes targeted in September by groups advocating ending U.S. support for the Salvadoran government and its death squads. The World-Herald article describing the lobbying and publicity campaign targeted at these seven, however, missed the local angle; nothing in the headline or layout focused on Exon, and only in the last sentence did Exon's name appear. (See "Graphic Ads Oppose Salvador Aid," W-H, Sept. 20, 1990, page 4.)

According to the wire service story, the State Department, sensing lawmakers' outrage over the November slaying of six Jesuit priests by Salvadoran soldiers, has quietly offered to reduce outlays by at least 15 percent, but is eager to defeat the so-called Dodd/Leahy bill.

The proposal by Sens. Christopher Dodd, D-Conn., and Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., calls for withholding 50 percent of \$85 million in U.S. aid to El Salvador's military. The full amount would be restored if the Salvadoran rebels refuse to negotiate a peace settlement or launch an offensive.

Under the bill, the full amount of military aid would be suspended if the government walks away from negotiations with the rebels, rejects U.N. mediation or fails to prosecute the murderers of the Jesuits.

Several Nebraska citizens' groups (who surely do not depend on the World-Herald for

key information about important stands of their elected officials) were involved in lobbying Sen. Exon, including Youth For Peace, the Omaha Central America Response Team, Nebraskans For Peace, and Witness For Peace. A group from Youth For Peace visited Sen. Exon's aide Gary DiSilvestro on Sept. 19. Soon after that, Exon wrote a letter to Tim Alexander of Youth For Peace describing his stand; he had co-sponsored the Dodd/Leahy bill.

Whether foreign aid is continued boils down, I believe, to whether serious reform is taking place in El Salvador and whether serious attempts are being made on the part of the Cristiani government to make those responsible for past abuses accountable for their actions.

At this time, I believe positive steps toward these ends are being made; however, much more proof and effort on their part is still needed. I believe it is time that Congress sends a strong message to the Salvadoran government, in particular the military, that a peaceful resolution to the civil war with the FMLN must be reached and human rights violations must end. This is why I am a cosponsor of S. 2954, the Dodd/Leahy bill, which withholds United States assistance until such progress is made. Restoration of human rights and fostering democracy should be our paramount

goals in El Salvador.

Exon aide Gary DiSilvestro described Exon's decision as having come from reading a report by Congressman Moakley, as well as

from the input of concerned Nebraskans. "They have done an excellent job of keeping in touch with us," he said.

As this is being written, the Dodd/Leahy bill has not been voted on in the Senate.

Nebraska Civil Liberties Union to Hold Bill of Rights Dinner, Awards

The Nebraska Civil Liberties Union will host its 1990 Bill of Rights Dinner and Awards ceremony October 6, 1990, at Misty's Restaurant, 6235 Havelock Avenue, Lincoln.

Retiring Nebraska Attorney General Robert M. Spire of Lincoln is keynote speaker for the 7:00 p.m. dinner, which is open to the public.

Tickets are \$30.00 per person, including a social hour preceding and a gathering following the dinner. For reservations, contact Lora Jones at the Nebraska Civil Liberties Union, P.O. Box 81455, Lincoln, 68501, 476-8091.

Grand Juries Didn't Close Book on Franklin

by Frances Mendenhall

On Sept. 26, the federal grand jury which had examined among other things the Franklin sex abuse allegations issued its report. To no one's surprise, their conclusions were almost identical to those of the Douglas County grand jury, that no "credible evidence" existed to substantiate the allegations of involvement by prominent individuals in a ring of child sex exploitation, and that Alisha Owen should be tried for perjury for her testimony that former Police Chief Robert Wadman had sexually abused her as a teenager and had fathered her child. People had come to expect that the same sources would be interviewed, and the same results forthcoming. That happened, but few were convinced.

That evening KETV conducted a telephone poll. "Do you think the grand jury reports and indictments will finally put the Franklin child abuse case to rest?" it asked. One hundred thirteen callers said yes; 1,016 said no.

Meanwhile, the World-Herald continued to color the events. In its Sept. 27 editorial it again tried to paint the story told by Alisha Owen as a hoax orchestrated by Michael Casey, who, according to the editorialists' point of view, had a personal vendetta against certain individuals and institutions in Omaha. "Casey introduced her to (the Legislature's special committee investigator) Caradori," it said, trying to convince readers that Caradori had been duped by a wily Casey. We strongly

question that Casey introduced the two and challenge them to cite their sources; our sources indicate that Caradori discovered Alisha Owen completely independent of Casey, hearing of her from other young people with similar stories. Those who have seen the videotapes of Owen have an unshakable image of authenticity. Owen's story is her own; when Caradori asks her about events that she has no knowledge of, she says so. When he misses the importance of something, she corrects him. When he shows a picture of someone unknown to her, she simply says she doesn't know the person. They say that it is difficult to believe that he spoon fed her.

Because the World-Herald thinks Owen's story won't stand up in court, it would also like people to believe that Alisha Owen is almost solely the source of the allegations. "Allegations that she made on the videotapes of Gary Caradori for the Legislature's Franklin committee have been close to the core of the stories going around Omaha," it said. In fact, Alisha Owen's story didn't even surface until last fall, two years after the State Foster Care Review Board started bringing up the extent of the child abuse problems and the apparent connection with Franklin and Larry King.

The grand jury did not, as the World-Herald editorial implied, close the book on the subject. The federal grand jury, unlike the Douglas County grand jury, had a time limit which it had extended once. The report of late September was published when it ran out of

time, not necessarily when it had exhausted its subject. According U.S. Attorney Ron Lahners, top federal prosecutors and investigators plan to continue to pursue the evidence presented to the grand jury to see if there are any "loose ends" that might merit more investigation which will be turned over to the new federal grand jury. Also, it mentioned in the report that the jurors felt that there was some obstruction of justice.

As this is being written, two of the three blood tests to determine the paternity of Alisha Owen's child have yet to be returned. One, sent to the lab chosen by former Police Chief Wadman, was reported to have yielded a

negative result. There are few people who expect the other two to be different from the first. But those who questioned the accidental nature of the plane crash that killed Caradori will surely doubt the test results. These people may never be satisfied.

It is possible that in the short run justice will not be served. Child molesters such as Peter Citron sometimes go for years evading justice. Eventually, however, someone comes forth, new evidence is presented, and justice wins out. Meanwhile, however, there is good reason to tremble at the chilling effect that the discrediting of Alisha Owen may have on other victims.

Don't Hang Up, Mr. Gallup

'Law Talk' Short On Straight Talk

by Dan Gruber

Attorney William Gallup has defended many accused sex offenders, and is now the attorney for Dr. Dan Schrien.

One of the favorite themes promoted on Bill Gallup's radio call-in show "Law Talk" (KKAR, Sundays at 10:00 a.m.) is "No Coverup in the Franklin Investigation." Ironically, while promoting this concept, he does an effective-but deceptive-job of creating the illusion that there's no one out there who disagrees with him.

On Sept. 23 I called his show in the genuine hope of having questions answered. I asked Bill to comment on the trend by de-

fense attorneys in multiple abuse cases to attack the interviewers of the witnesses in the hope of labeling the whole case a "hoax" thereby delivering their clients from the jaws of justice. The McMartin case in California and the Fuster case in Florida shockingly illustrate this defense technique. The Fuster case bears striking parallels to the Franklin case. Is the World-Herald now attempting to pin the "hoax" label on Gary Caradori much the same as the previous cases did? I asked Gallup if he would use the same defense in the Schrein case. I also asked the pointed question, how interviewers can be labeled hoaxers when the allegations existed long before the interviewers were called in to investigate.

The only answer I got was that it would be unethical for him to comment on the Schrein case. I can accept that answer. But then Bill went into a tirade concerning the previous caller's comments about the ability of the rich and prominent to buy their way out of trouble. He painted a rosy picture of the American way of justice. I thought Bill was going to throw in apple pie, cherry trees, and tiny U.S. flags.

Gallup challenged the previous caller as well as other callers to reveal any obstruction of justice. (This woman knows me and confided in me later that Bill cut off her phone mike in the midst of challenging her and made the listening audience think she had hung up!) After politely allowing Bill to ramble on, I too attempted to answer his challenge. I was not surprised to discover that my phone mike had also been cut off. For 15 minutes I tried to answer his challenge and for 15 minutes I was ignored. Besides myself, I know of five others who have told me that they have called in with facts concerning a possible coverup only to be put on hold for the remainder of the program, hung up on, or interrupted by a lengthy spiel from Mr. Gallup. (Montie Newland, Lorna BeSchamp, and Mary Caradori have given me permission to use their names.)

Continued on next page

Continued on next page

Death Threats Follow Some Franklin Critics

by a Lincoln mother

The author is unwilling to use her real name because of fear of retaliation. She has promised to answer all correspondence, in care of the Nebraska Observer. The Observer is interested in hearing from others who have been involved in information gathering regarding the Franklin case who have felt threatened.

Senator Ernest Chambers sat with talk show host Steve Brown at KKAR. During the interview the Senator pointed out his car, and told Steve to notice the bullet-hole through the trunk. Was this bullet a retaliatory threat for the Senator's outspoken criticism of the Franklin investigation "cover-up?" This, along with other acts of terrorism threaten the lives of those who have in one way or another pushed for justice in the Franklin matter.

Across town a suburban office building appears to be serene and orderly. A nice earth-tone late model car is parked in front, a bullet hole at forehead level in the windshield is evident. It was put there by an unknown sniper while this attorney and the mother of the victim-witness drove along the Interstate Highway. A few days before he had been told "you're going to be a memory," in a death-threat phone call received in his office late one evening as he was working on the paper-

work to counteract an illegal court order issued against his client. A short time later a second threatening call ensued.

On the radio on KFAB, the host praised the Grand Jury Reports, pronouncing the issue called "Franklin" a "hoax" and scolding members of the community for being vicious rumormongers and hurting prominent citizens with lies. Another caller came on who identified himself as Scott Caradori, the brother of the late Franklin Chief Investigator, Gary Caradori. Scott told the listeners how his brother was threatened numerous times before his death, how his vehicles were tampered with before the mysterious plane crash which claimed his life and that of his 8-year old son. Scott continued that he himself has been threatened as well as members of the Caradori family who still seek answers regarding this horrendous tragedy.

A former State Senator, John De Camp is an attorney for a Franklin victim. He has told friends that he has reason to believe someone will kill him before his case goes to open court.

The list goes on. Kathleen Sorensen was an outspoken activist against Satanic abuse of children. Special Prosecutor Van Pelt indicated to a witness in the Douglas County Grand Jury that if Kathleen Sorensen had

been alive, that she would have been the first witness to speak in front of the jury. Kathleen Sorensen was killed Oct. 5, 1989, in an automobile accident as she drove one of her foster children to therapy; the child was being counseled for abuse from a previous home. Kathleen left behind a videotape telling the local tranquil Midwesterners that there were hidden atrocities carried out against children here. In graphic detail she outlined unspeakable horrors.

The very morning that she was killed she had called several of her Christian friends, "Pray for me," she said, "They're coming down hard on me."

Kirstin Hallberg was told by Van Pelt that she would be the first Grand Jury witness because Kathleen was dead. So, in her friend's place, she reiterated the knowledge of the abuse victims to a seemingly interested audience. When the Grand Jury report came out, however, she was listed as a "Rumormonger." Kirstin had, in earlier years, received a threat from a person she could identify, and she did identify him to the proper authorities. At the time he was an obscure person who told her to leave Larry King alone. Today this person has become more well-known after being identified as a captain in a gang who

Radio Listeners Want Answers About Child Abuse Case

Continued from previous page

Okay, Bill, here are a few thoughts to rattle your cherry tree.

1) Why did the State Patrol fail to investigate after an initial witness passed a series of three lie detector tests?

2) Why did Robert Wadman fail to take a lie detector test (standard operating procedure for law enforcement individuals) after the allegations arose?

3) Why wasn't a proper investigation initiated after Edward Hobbs came forth with his list of allegations in February 1984?

4) Why did the Omaha Police shelf further Franklin related sexual abuse allegations after officer Irl (Chris) Carmean interviewed the young female victim at Richard Young Hospital and found her to be credible

in June 1988?

5) Why were the same law enforcement persons allowed to cover the same ground in the follow up investigation after their integrity was already in question?

6) Why was a state legislative committee and a county grand jury necessary before third-degree sexual assault charges were filed on Jarrett Webb, former board member of the Franklin Credit Union and relative of Larry King, resulting from reports made during March 1986?

7) Why wasn't the letter which Lee Nugara, president of the Nebraska chapter of Believe the Children, sent to Senator Bob Kerrey during August 1989 (Omaha World-Herald, August 18, 1989) acted upon? In this letter Nugara describes interviews with three

youths with no knowledge of one another who detail satanic ceremonies involving sexual abuse at which they saw six prominent persons.

Our nation's history is riddled with accounts of rich and prominent individuals who abused their high position of trust to satisfy their own private agenda. So I ask Mr. Gallup, what makes our own local elite any different or any less suspect to investigation? The roaring '20s alone bring home the fact that police, politicians, and judges can be bought off, scared off, or rubbed out. What makes the 1990s any different?

And tell me, Bill, is there an "Alleged Perpetrators Association of Nebraska" which foots the bill for your show?

Critics of Franklin 'Coverup' Endure Threats

Continued from previous page

was found guilty of shooting a young man in a drive-by incident which took place in North Omaha.

The World-Herald shrieks incessantly of the hideous insult to reputations caused by "rumors," but actually isn't the real cause for concern the death threats which seem to have heightened after the failure of the various attempts to "put the Franklin 'rumors' to rest"? How many *persons* will be "put to rest" before this is over? One can only hope and pray for the individuals who, like at Tiananman Square, were in the forefront of the unrest against the government. CBS reported that the Chinese government officials went through tapes of their coverage to identify and put to death dissidents who spoke out.

Threats are too numerous to state in one article, but possibly all threats should be printed and acknowledged as a safeguard. In some cases, it is not a death threat, it is instead a less concrete threat against livelihood.

Another way to threaten which surrounds a person every waking moment of their life is the telephone tap. Some taps are threatening *because they are apparent*. A telephone tap says to the person "We know you are going to take that little girl to the doctor today" without ever uttering a word. At the Owen household codes and warnings to friends are an everyday occurrence.

How do they know their phone is being tapped? Aside from hearing chairs being dragged across some floor in the phone line, mechanical whirrings, etc., the phone company itself assured the Owens that their line is most definitely being monitored.

Similar confirmations were pronounced to a family involved in the Webb case. The telephone repairman emerged from his work, and said,

"Your line is tapped. Did you know?"

Persons involved in the group called Concerned Parents have recently said there are mechanical sounds over their phones. Certain state offices also advise callers beware one official was cautioned by a phone con-

pany insider.

The bottom line is that people involved in seeking justice in regard to this "Franklin thing" in some cases are dying, and in other cases are being threatened with death, financial loss, the list goes on and on. Still, the word "rumor" is being used to stifle people from talking to one another. Is the word

"rumor" in itself a coverup? If someone has his or her life threatened and says so, then does not die forthwith, is that a rumor about that person's safety? There is something here, within this "Franklin thing" that is potentially wrong enough for those who are involved to want to threaten, intimidate, even kill those who would speak.



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AFL-CIO Compare National Health Care Plans

By Camille Colatosti

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On Oct. 3, 5:15 p.m., the Nebraska State AFL-CIO plans to demonstrate on the north steps of the Capitol in Lincoln to demand a national health care plan.

The AFL-CIO health care committee has been trying to choose between West German and Canadian. They're not discussing beer; they're debating national health care proposals.

Approximately 90 percent of the American public believes it is time for major reform of the health care system. Politicians, labor leaders, newspaper columnists, and even some business executives agree that the U.S. faces

a health care crisis. More than 37 million people in the country are without health insurance. Between one-third and one-half of these -- 14.4 million -- are employed. Clearly something isn't working.

Much of the trouble stems from the fact that health care is for profit. It's very expensive, and the cost is rising at a rate of 18-30 percent annually. Because of the cost, fewer than 40 percent of today's employers provide 80 percent or more of their employee's health care.

In 1988, health insurance premiums cost workers an average of 6.6 percent of after-tax income. If prices rise at their current rate and employers continue to demand cost-sharing, premiums could equal 27 percent of take-

home pay by 1998. The solution: cap the cost of medical treatment; limit what doctors and hospitals can charge for service. But how?

The AFL-CIO health care committee is expected to endorse a particular plan by August. Meanwhile, few rank-and-file union members know where their leaders stand.

West German System

Only the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union endorses a Canadian-style national health program. Service Employees President John Sweeney, chair of the AFL-CIO health care committee, has been pushing the German model -- which seems little better than the current U.S. health care system.

The West German system relies on institutional structures that really do not exist in the U.S.; it depends largely on the existence of a well-organized workforce. The government mandates that all employers provide 50 percent of their workers' insurance. The employee pays the remainder. Health coverage can be purchased either from a non-profit sickness fund, or from a private insurer. Naturally, wealthy people buy private insurance, thus establishing a two-tier health care system.

While the U.S. has 1,550 private insurance companies, West Germany has more than 1,200 sickness funds, not counting the numerous private insurers. As a consequence, the administrative needs of the West German system are, like those of the U.S. health care industry, unwieldy and expensive.

The West German model remains attractive for U.S. trade union leaders because

labor officials administer insurance jointly with employers. But the West German plan is by no means pro-labor. It contains rising administrative costs only by squeezing the number of non-professional health care workers. West German hospitals have about half the support staff of comparable U.S. or Canadian facilities. It's ironic that Sweeney backs this plan since the union he leads contains a large number of health care workers.

Pepper Commission

Another option, similar to the West German model, is the modified employer mandate, best embodied in a report put forward by the "Pepper" Commission and in the Basic Health Benefits for All Americans Act sponsored by Senator Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.), Representative Henry Waxman (D-Calif.) and Representative Bill Clay (D-Mo.). Business leaders favor this plan because it would not affect the for-profit nature of insurance and health care, but would transfer some of the burden of insurance financing from the private to the public sector.

Despite its name, the Act is extremely limited. It would require all employers with more than 100 workers to offer health care plans that meet vaguely defined minimum standards. The Pepper commission recommends that employers pay at least 80 percent of health care premiums. But even 20 percent would be too expensive for many working families.

Nor would the proposal provide universal

Continued on next page

A National Health Care Program: Where Nebraska's Candidates Stand

The Nebraska League of Rural Voters sent a questionnaire to the major Nebraska candidates. Included was a question about a national health care plan. Here are the responses.

Should the United States develop a national health care system?

U.S. Senate

Exon:

The costs of health care in our country have been rising at twice the rate of normal inflation. As a result, I strongly support restraint, at a minimum, or a reduction of these ever-increasing costs. Medical care, without health insurance, is already out of the realm of the possible for most Americans. The costs of health insurance are also increasing at such a rate that many families and individuals find health insurance a luxury instead of a necessity. That is unacceptable in a country such as ours.

I am not sure that we as a nation are ready to move to a fully nationalized health plan and our federal budget deficit limits the options available. As the recently-repealed Catastrophic Health Care plan revealed, tax-paying Americans have limits on what they are willing to spend on a solution.

Congress has tried to reduce health care costs within the Medicare program by freezing or limiting physician reimbursements. However, costs keep going up. Health care consumers are caught in the squeeze, especially older individuals on fixed incomes.

That is why I have called for an increasing public-private cooperative effort to attack this problem. An over-reliance on one sector or the other will not work. I will support reform of our national health care system within these parameters.

Daub:

Chose not to respond.

Congress, 1st District

Bereuter:

Declined to respond

Hall:

Yes

Congress, 2nd District

Milder:

Health care has become one of the most pressing problems for our rural areas. Federal policymakers need to understand the importance of rural health care and should take steps to equalize medicare payments made to rural and urban health care providers.

Hoagland:

Yes. Policy using government, employer, health care provider and individual participation.

Congress, 3rd District

Barrett:

No

Scofield:

No

Governor

Orr:

No, the United States should not develop a national health care policy. It most likely would adversely affect rural America.

Nelson:

No

Lt. Governor

Moul:

Yes

Maddux:

Declined to answer

Secretary of State

Hansen:

No

Beerman:

Because of office and position, unable to respond so as to remain neutral.

Vermont Independent Campaigns For a National Health Program

by David Himmelstein, M.D.

The author is the national coordinator for Physicians for a National Health Plan, a 3,000 member group supporting a universal, publicly funded health care system similar to Canada's. Dr. Himmelstein is a Harvard Medical School professor who practices internal medicine at Cambridge Hospital and heads the hospital's community medicine division.

Bernie Sanders is a Progressive Independent candidate for the U.S. Congress from Vermont who has endorsed the Physicians for a National Health Program position in favor of a national health care system.

When Bernie Sanders announced three months ago that he was running again for Congress, he placed health care at the top of his agenda, the first of five issues which he intends to stress in the campaign. He said then that if elected, he would do "everything in my power to create a national health care program which will guarantee to every American all of the health care he or she needs without out-of-pocket expense. Quality health care must be a right of American citizenship,

and not just a privilege for the rich."

Recently, I spent a day with Bernie in Vermont, speaking out on a national health program. The day began with a major press conference in the capital, Montpelier, and ended with a well attended public meeting in Brattleboro where we received positive coverage on Vermont's two main TV stations, a supportive story in The Burlington Free Press, the state's largest daily, and favorable editorials in the Free Press and several smaller papers. These successes are evidence of the power of the issue and the effectiveness of the Sanders campaign, which put the day together.

Bernie served as Mayor of Burlington, Vermont, for four terms, from 1981 to 1989; in 1988, he lost a bid for Vermont's lone seat in the U.S. House of Representatives by just 3 percent, despite being outspent by his Republican opponent, Peter Smith, 2 to 1. In that race, Bernie got 38 percent of the vote, Smith polled 41 and the Democratic candidate received just 19 percent. In this race, Bernie's opponent has received the support of the AMA as he did in 1988.

Environmentalists, Earth First!, Nonviolently Oppose

The author, an Omaha native, is a Ph.D student in the Department of Forestry and Resource Management at the University of California, Berkeley. An active participant in Redwood Summer, she works with many environmental groups, including the Rainforest Action Network in San Francisco, is currently working with the Environmental Protection and Information Center in Humboldt County, Calif., and is a lifelong Earth First!er.

Katelman is the daughter of Omahans Budd Dundee and Annette King.

by Tracy Katelman

Not so long ago, the Pacific Coast, from Big Sur to just north of the California/Oregon border, was blanketed by 2 million acres of coastal redwood. Now, after more than a century of European settlement, the forest has been reduced to a mere 100,000 acres -- only 5 percent of the original redwood forest.

Perhaps my midwestern background makes it hard for me to accept that a person could cut down one of these mighty giants and feel OK. I grew up traipsing through Fontenelle Forest. As a child, it was a mighty forest (especially when I got lost there one afternoon!), but it *doesn't really compare* to these incredible redwood forests. Redwoods can grow over 300 feet tall, higher than any tree on the planet, and can be more than 10 feet wide.

People do cut down these mighty trees, and are cutting them down faster than ever. This summer, Northern California was being cut so fast, one had to wait to get logging equipment. Loggers were brought in from all over the Pacific Northwest to assist in the wholesale destruction of the redwood forest.

Fighting the Timber Industry

While most of the redwoods are on private lands, the state can regulate any activity that could disrupt the environment. After years of going to court to stop illegal Timber Harvest Plans (THPs), a group of grassroots folks got together and wrote a statewide ballot initiative to reform California forest practices. The Forest and Wildlife Protection and Bond Act of 1990, also known as Forests Forever or Proposition 130, will protect many of the remaining ancient forests in California. (There is much debate as to exactly what an "old growth" or "ancient" forest is. An "old growth" forest has never been logged. The trees in these forests are usually more than 200 years old.) Forests Forever also mandates "sustained yield," meaning the forest should be kept growing at the same rate it is cut down. To most people this makes sense; however, the forest industry considers it radical and is fighting the initiative tooth and nail.

The timber industry felt threatened. Companies started submitting THPs as quickly as possible, and the California Department of Forestry (CDF) rubber-stamped them as fast as they came in.



Headwaters Forest, a 3,000 acre virgin stand of redwood owned by Pacific Lumber Co., Humboldt County, California. August 1987.

Photo by David J. Cross

In response, another grassroots group from Northern California, Earth First!, decided it was time to slow down the cutting. In the spring, the call was put out for folks around the country to come to California for Redwood Summer. The idea was loosely patterned after Mississippi Summer of the early 1960s, when more than 1,000 people from around the country went to Mississippi to demand civil rights for all and break the stranglehold of racism on the South. Earth First! believes that the timber corporations, none of which have headquarters here, have Northern California in a similar stranglehold, exterminating the redwood ecosystem for the short-term profits of a few. So the call went out.

Redwood Summer started early. On May 24, a bomb exploded in the car of Judi Bari, who was travelling with Darryl Cherney. The two were the driving forces behind Redwood Summer. Judi was sitting on the bomb when it exploded and now has a fractured pelvis. She recently started walking on crutches. Darryl suffered eye injuries and is now recov-

ered from the physical damages.

The FBI tried to discredit Earth First! and Redwood Summer by attempting to charge Judi and Darryl with bombing themselves. After months of a media smear campaign, the FBI and Oakland Police Department finally admitted they had no evidence and charges were never filed. The FBI has spent about \$3 million on investigating/discrediting Earth First! over the last year. We take that to mean we are becoming more effective.

The bombing told the world about Redwood Summer and the wholesale destruction of the redwood ecosystem. Redwood Summer was alive and kicking.

We set up a base camp in the woods. The activists arriving from all over the county got into the "demo a day" mode quickly.

The first major Redwood Summer action was June 21, at the Louisiana-Pacific (L-P) pulp mill in Samoa, just outside of Eureka. L-P is the 10th largest timber corporation in the country. L-P's CEO, Harry Menlo, has said things like "Corporate timberlands should be used to the hilt," and "We need everything

that's out there.... We log to infinity, because we need it all. It's ours. It's out there and we need it all. Now." Merlo's plan is to cut everything on the ground, grind it up, put it back together with toxic glues and call it "waferboard."

The L-P pulpmill in Samoa, one of the largest in the country, is a principal air and water polluter in Humboldt County. L-P was recently caught pumping dioxin into the ocean, making it more dangerous to eat the seafood from the area. L-P's latest trick has been to close down mills in California while opening mills in Mexico because of cheap labor and lax environmental regulations.

Hundreds of people turned out at the Samoa demonstration to let L-P know what they think of its "forest practices." After a rally on the beach with speakers and musicians, the crowd filed into the road and blocked traffic going into the mill. Log trucks were lined up for miles, as more than 500 of us blocked traffic for at least two hours.

It was anything but business as usual for L-P that day. By the end of the day, 44 people were arrested for blocking the road. A group of 10 arrestees, the Lorax affinity group (named after the Dr. Seuss character) decided to have their day in court. The Lorax folk pled not guilty on the ground that they committed a misdemeanor to prevent L-P from continually committing felonious dumping into Humboldt Bay water and air. After 180 people were interviewed for jury duty and a trial that lasted weeks, the Loraxers had a hung jury - seven of the 12 jurors agreed with their defense. Yet, Humboldt County's district attorney refused to file charges against L-P.

Protecting Headwaters

On July 6, after much public pressure, primarily from Earth First!, CDF denied two THPs in the Headwaters Forest. Headwaters, the last truly wild redwood forest still unprotected, is a 3,000 acre grove on the land of Pacific Lumber (PalCo). PalCo was the victim of a leveraged buyout by "junk bond" raider Charles Hurwitz of the MAXXAM Corporation. The takeover was financed and carried out by convicted felons Ivan Boesky and Michael Milken. PalCo owns 11,000 of the 16,000 acres of remaining old-growth redwood forests in the world. Since the takeover, Hurwitz has tripled the cut to pay off his junk bond. Pacific Lumber/MAXXAM has been the target of Northern California Earth First!'s attention for the last several years, and especially during Redwood Summer.

On July 21, more than 2,000 people turned out in Fort Bragg to let Georgia Pacific (GP) know we don't agree with its liquidation logging practice. GP is the world's largest forest products corporation, having just completed a hostile takeover of Great Northern Nekoosa. GP is also the largest importer of tropical hardwoods in the United States. In California, GP is known for its cut-and-run

Logging Industry During 'Redwood Summer'

attitude. In Mendocino County, where GP has its strongest presence, the state reported that the timber industry has cut more than 320 percent of what it has grown. This makes sense if you believe along with T. Marshall Hahn, GP's CEO, that "Greed is a noble motivator."

The last big campaign of Redwood Summer was the defense of Murrelet Grove, on

Pacific Lumber land in the Headwaters Forest watershed. Murrelet Grove started out as 230-plus acres of ancient redwoods. Fewer than 100 acres remain. The giants were falling every 15 minutes in Murrelet Grove, home to marbled murrelets and spotted owls, both old-growth dependent species. More than 100 arrests were made on Pacific Lumber lands.

The civil rights of several arrestees were

violated, especially in Humboldt County. The American Civil Liberties Union has filed suit on behalf of the Redwood Summer activists. Four arrestees, all long-haired men, had their heads shaven, and one was beaten up in the process. A jail supporter was later arrested for attempting "unlawful communication with a prisoner" by holding a sign that read "We love you" outside the jail windows. The DA realized the absurdity of this and did not file charges.

Redwood Summer closed with our Labor Day extravaganza, Redwoodstock. More than 1,500 people turned out for two days of music and learning in the heart of timber country. Many predicted a bloodbath. It was anything but. Angry loggers in pickup trucks with gunracks were met by our peacekeepers. The final event was our Labor Day march on the town of Fortuna. Hundreds marched along Highway 101, stretching more than a mile, through town to the Pacific Lumber mill, in the face of screaming, angry loggers. No one left that day without a better understanding of

the emotional intensity of the issues. In the face of violence all summer long, we stuck hard to our nonviolence code and prevailed.

We were constantly in touch with media from around the world. People are finally learning about what is really going down in the hills of Northern California. In many ways it has become a national, perhaps even international, issue. Many grassroots activists have been fighting for the forests here for years; unfortunately, the media wasn't interested until people were ready to become confrontational.

A few years ago, the big environmental groups told Earth First! to forget about the last of the redwoods -- there weren't enough to protect (the LAST 5 percent!) and the corporations would never give in. We proved them wrong. Headwater, the last unprotected redwood gem, is almost certain to be purchased by the state after Nov. 6 if Proposition 130 passes. Now, those big environmental groups are trying to get in on the victory!

In Nebraska It's the Platte and the Prairie; Ecosystems, Struggles Interconnected

TK

What does the fight to save the last of the redwoods mean to Nebraskans?

First, by saving the redwoods, you are saving a national treasure. Let your friends and relatives in California know what is happening (if they haven't yet heard) and urge them to vote yes on Proposition 130, The Forest and Wildlife Protection and Bond Act of 1990. A bill before the U.S. Congress, the Ancient Forest Protection Act of 1990 (HR 4492), is expected to be voted on soon. Support from all over the country is needed for Congress to declare that the Ancient Forest on public lands should be preserved for future generations. Write your Senator or Representative or call the U.S. Congress' toll-free number, 1-800-852-3466 and voice your support of HR 4492.

Corporate greed is corporate greed is corporate greed. You know this -- you voted against letting the corporados buy up all the farm land in Nebraska. Don't let corporations turn our forests into tree farms for short-term profits. Support the boycott of Georgia Pacific products. (MD, Angel

Soft, Cormatic and Mr. Big toilet paper; Sparkle, Delta and Mr. Big paper towels; and Coronet, Hudson and Soft Ply paper napkins.)

Recycle your paper products. More important, purchase only recycled wood products. If your market doesn't do so now, ask it to stock recycled toilet paper, paper towels and other paper products. Re-use your lumber and other wood products. Buy used furniture instead of new. And please don't buy redwood for your deck, picnic table or hot tub. Every little bit counts.

Second, saving the redwoods should be just the beginning. Find out about environmental issues in your area. I hear the irrigators and power companies want to divert an excessive amount of water from the Platte. Rivers need to run free as much as forests need protection. And perhaps even more endangered than the Platte wildlife habitat, the prairie is one of the most endangered ecosystems in the country, and restoration efforts are critical.

Get involved. Do it for your grandchildren.



Redwood summer rally and march at Ft. Bragg, Calif. July 21, 1990 .
Photo by David J. Cross



Clearcut by Pacific Lumber Co. near "All Species Creek." Scale: trees at far edge are old-growth redwood, 3 to 6 ft. in diameter, 200+ ft. tall. November 1988
Photo by David J. Cross

Continues Condemning the U.S., Racism

Prisoner Will Not Trade Silence For Release

by Wopashitwe Mondo Eyen we Langa

As of last month, I have been locked up for 20 years and will have spent the 20th year since my conviction as of this coming April. I was sentenced to life imprisonment for "first-degree murder." Interestingly, at least a half dozen men who were convicted of first-degree murder and sentenced to life imprisonment *since I was convicted and sentenced* have either already been released from imprisonment or have been scheduled for release.

Is the fact that I'm still in here due to my institution record -- escape attempts, acts of violence, or other actions that would suggest that I am some kind of danger to society? No. In fact, since I've been in here, there have been no such heavy infractions on my record. Someone might say, though I'd consider it an insult, that, in some sense, I've been a "model prisoner." Five books of my poetry have been published; two plays of mine have been publicly performed; I obtained a General Studies Associate Degree from the Southeast Community College prison campus, with a 3.92 GPA; during the period when I was going out on travel orders, I lectured at least twice at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln and once at Nebraska Wesleyan on creative writing and related subjects; and have exhibited that I have constructive contributions to make.

At the same time, however, in newspaper articles and interviews, etc., I have continued, as I was doing before I got locked away, condemning the U.S., its economic and social systems, its racism, and other aspects of this "land of the free." And, in all the years I have been here, I have never applied to the Board of Pardons (which must commute a life sentence for first-degree murder to a specific term of years before the Parole Board can parole a person doing such a sentence) for a pardon. I have never asked the Parole Board for a parole. Moreover, I have stated publicly on many occasions, when asked about the killing for which I was falsely accused, that my response to the news that the killing had taken place was one of a feeling that a little bit of justice had been done. This was my response, and it was my response because African people in Omaha and throughout the U.S. had been murdered by the police -- Vivian Strong, Fred Hampton and Mark Clark, and many others during that period -- without the survivors of those murder victims receiving justice, without those police doing time.

It is most probably the case that there are people who have asked themselves, "If this clown (Mondo) wants to get out of prison, why doesn't he quit talking bad about Uncle Sam? Why doesn't he just admit to his responsibility in the cop-killing and express sorrow or remorse for his actions?" Such people need to understand that I am afflicted with some kind of moral ailment which prevents me from seeing people being made to suffer so that some other people can maintain

power and increase their grotesque wealth and fail to say something about it, from seeing my own people/African people being programmed to believe in their own supposed "inferiority" and fail to attack those institutions which are responsible, from seeing all variety of madness and not speak on these matters. Excuse me. But I can't shut up. Nor can I admit to responsibility in the August, '70 police bomb killing because I had none. It would never even occur to me to put a 15-year-old African child up to something as serious as any killing is. I believe that there may very well arise a set of conditions in this country which will require a war within the borders of the U.S. When this happens, I will fight and do not apologize for either saying so or expressing what I see as nearly inevitable. But I will pull the trigger on my own gun or wield my own stick or otherwise do battle. I will take responsibility for my own actions as I have done since I came into adulthood.

If I'm going to continue to condemn America and its institutions, if I'm going to continue to state the fact that the State of Nebraska falsely accused and convicted me, if I'm going to continue to state the fact that I am a political prisoner, how is it that I expect to leave this place? My case is in court (8th Circuit in St. Louis), as it has been during most of the time

I've been locked up. But while my conviction was thrown out by the Federal District Court in July of '74 (the decision being reversed several months later by the U.S. Supreme Court), for the most part, the criminal justice system has been, in my case, just that -- a criminal "justice" system. There are groups, such as the Mondo/Pointexter Defense Committee, Freedom Now, the West German adoption group of Amnesty International that is assigned to my case, and other groups that are pressing for my release and that of other U.S. political prisoners. If there is such a thing as fate, I don't know what mine is.

Just this very day, I read in the newspaper that yet another man doing a life sentence and who came here *after* I did has had his sentence commuted and is immediately eligible for parole. In '85 or '86 when I appeared before the Parole Board, I was informed by Chairman Bartee that the Board's policy with regard to persons doing life sentences for first-degree murder was that such persons would have to serve 15 years before the Parole Board would recommend to the Board of Pardons that commutations be granted. One month later, I had served 15 but heard nothing about any such recommendation having been made. The following year, the Parole Board Chairman spoke to me as if there were

going to be some impending public hearing on the question of my being paroled. Shortly thereafter, an article appeared in the World-Herald in which it was stated that Ed Poindexter, who was convicted along with myself in connection with the Minard killing, had applied for a commutation of sentence or parole. The article went on to state that his application had been denied and quoted Board Chairman, Bartee, as saying that the Parole Board had adopted an additional policy regarding life sentences for first-degree murder. In the article, Bartee stated that, while persons serving life sentences had to serve 15 years before being considered for recommendation to the Board of Pardons, such persons sentenced in connection with the death of policemen would have to serve at least 20 years. In short, I'm not only a political prisoner in the sense that I was convicted due to my political beliefs but am also a political prisoner inasmuch as I'm being kept here for the same reason.

Lastly, it must be understood that there has not been a single day in which I've not wanted out of here. However, I am not willing to say or do just anything in order to be released. That, in this time in which the philosophy of expedience reigns supreme, may seem strange to some. So be it.

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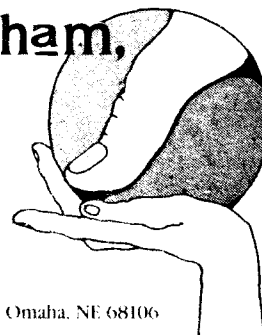
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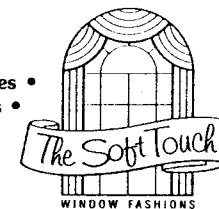
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U.S. Occupation of Saudi Arabia for Oil 'Cynical'

by James E. Akins

Former Ambassador James E. Akins is a Washington-based consultant specializing in energy and the Middle East.

In January 1975, the neo-conservative publication *Commentary* carried an article proposing invasion of Saudi Arabia as a solution to the eternal Arab problem and to our own economic problems. A flurry of similar articles followed that proposed occupying oil fields on the peninsula from Kuwait to Dubai, pumping them dry, and in 50 years or so returning the properties to their original owners.

I was ambassador in Jidda at the time, and I was appalled by the cynicism and the immorality of the suggestion. It was also ignorant, impractical and dangerous. If any party attempted to invade Saudi Arabia, the government would immediately sabotage the oil fields; if the invasion were successful, it would take two years to restore production levels, in which time the world economy would be prostrate. Only the Soviet Union might benefit.

I suggested that anyone who would take this proposition seriously was a madman, a criminal or a Soviet agent. Henry Kissinger, then secretary of state, had another view, and my career in the Foreign Service did not extend much beyond that point.

Later, President Carter stated that Saudi Arabia was of "vital interest" to the United States and that "an attack on Saudi Arabia would be considered an attack on the United States," which remains the U.S. position.

Nevertheless, there are those in the Bush Administration who will point out that conditions are more propitious now than in 1975 for at least a de facto military occupation of the Saudi fields. An invasion would not be necessary.

I am not the only knowledgeable observer who is convinced that Saddam Hussein did not intend to attack Saudi Arabia early last month; that would have been irrational, and Hussein is not irrational. Yet Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney convinced King Fahd that such an attack was imminent, to the extent that he dropped the Saudis' long-standing resistance to any military intimacy with the United States. I suspect that he did not envision 100,000 U.S. troops, perhaps double that number, on his territory for an indefinite period of time.

The American protective umbrella has since been extended to the United Arab Emirates.

If Saddam Hussein is not overthrown, he will remain a potential threat to Saudi Arabia and a certain threat to the House of Saud if the Americans were to withdraw. So, it is conceivable that U.S. troops might be welcome to stay indefinitely. Whether that would enjoy the favor of the army and the people of Saudi Arabia is another matter.

Those in and out of the U.S. government - including Kissinger - who were serious about taking over the oil fields in 1975 surely will argue that we should not let these extraordinary resources go now that they are in our control.

The scenario can be advanced further. The United States, which has already persuaded the Saudis to increase production by 2 million barrels a day, could order or persuade them to increase production much further. With the current Saudi reserves of 280 billion barrels, and perhaps another 70 billion in Abu Dhabi, the Saudi/Emirates production could be raised to 20 million barrels a day within three or four years through a crash development program. We could then write off permanently -- or at least for a generation -- Iraq, Kuwait and for

good measure Iran.

The oil price could be kept low, ensuring the support of the world's consumers -- an argument used in 1975. Or the price could be set somewhat higher, say, \$20 per barrel, far less than it is today and only one-third (in constant dollars) of the peak price it reached in 1980. Cost of production would be no more than \$2 per barrel. The United States could take a management fee of \$10 per barrel, leaving the Saudi government a generous \$8 per barrel. At 20 million barrels a day, our \$10 management fee could reduce the federal deficit by \$70 billion a year after payment of the occupation costs. Only the Spanish conquest of the New World was so richly rewarded.

Today's unanimous world support for current moves against Iraq would collapse under such circumstances. The Soviet Union and Britain, both exporters of crude, would be out-priced. The rest of the Arab world would fall into the enemy camp. But the United States, confident of its military presence, could afford to ignore the wishes of other oil-producing Arabs. It might even use some of the Saudi income to subsidize a friendly Egypt and perhaps Tunisia and Morocco.

'A Moral Embarrassment'

Food Embargo a Mistake

by George Anthan

WASHINGTON, D.C.--The man who was agriculture adviser in the White House when former President Jimmy Carter cut off grain sales to the Soviet Union says President Bush's food embargo against Iraq is a mistake and eventually will fail.

Lynn Daft, a Washington-based agricultural consultant, said support for the food embargo is destined to erode at home and abroad, and more and more countries eventually will ignore it.

He advised Bush to seek a graceful way to end the embargo before it becomes a moral and political embarrassment.

Daft was a member of Carter's domestic policy staff in 1980 when the president, angered over the invasion of Afghanistan, sought ways to punish the Soviet Union.

There was no military option, Daft noted. Carter's national security and foreign policy advisers seized on the grain embargo as the only viable response.

Daft recalled that domestic policy personnel were not consulted. Nor was the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

In such cases, he said, "a chasm separates the domestic from the international within the office of the president."

Carter's embargo fell apart as other exporting countries increased grain shipments to the Soviets.

The United States spent more than \$2 billion compensating farmers for lost sales,

A more imaginative plan would be the internationalization of all Arab oil, thereby rectifying one of God's inexplicable errors in placing such a valuable resource in such an unworthy place.

If this is our plan -- and it appears to be -- it is as foolish as it was 15 years ago. It is absurd to believe that the Saudi Arabian population and the army would remain docile; and it is beyond belief to suggest that, otherwise, they be exterminated or expelled, as was proposed in 1975. Anti-Semitism (Arab branch) may be acceptable in the United States today, but I doubt that the American people would have the stomach to conduct a racial, genocidal war -- even in the interest of such enormous gain.

It would be useful if President Bush told us whether he has excluded the possibility of ending the Kuwait occupation through diplomatic means, and if so, why. If he is preparing to starve or invade Iraq, this should be debated and the American public should know that it will face a rocky road.

If the President is planning a long occupation of Saudi Arabia, he will never admit it; it will just happen. It seems to be happening already.

and the resulting massive surpluses contributed to the depth of the 1980s farm recession.

Daft discussed the issue at a press conference. He also comments on it in an editorial in *Choices* magazine with editor Lyle Schertz.

They agree that food is "an important and powerful resource" that can "affect the ability of a country to wage war."

And the arguments for including food in the so-called "total embargo," they state, are familiar; "consistency of treatment across products, ease of enforcement, evidence of resolve, a means of undermining political support within the targeted country."

They state, "The simplicity and seeming elegance of blanketing all trade under the president's edict was too seductive for (Bush) and his advisers to resist.

"But they would have been well advised to make food an exception from the start.

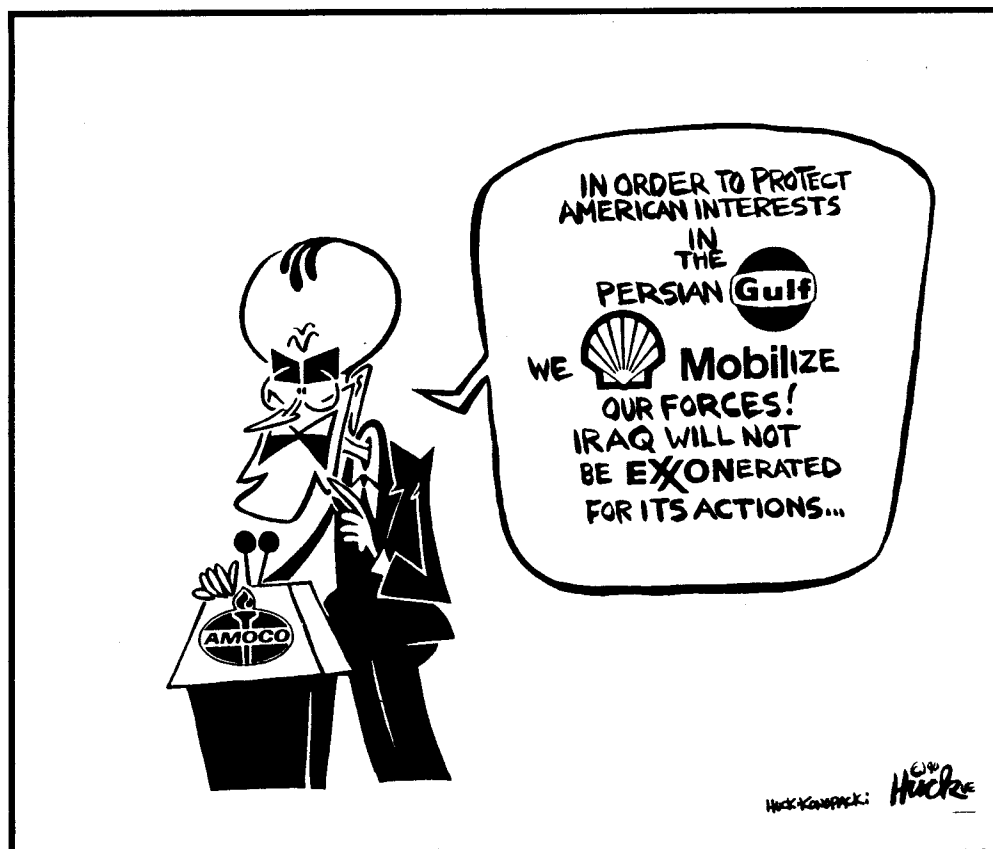
"For in the end, U.S. farmers and world opinion will force the administration to retreat from limiting good imports by Iraq."

Of many recent farm policy lessons, Daft and Schertz say, the significance of export markets and of continuing to be a reliable supplier is perhaps the most important.

"Not surprisingly, therefore, the U.S. farm community is less than enthusiastic in its support of another embargo.

"Not only does this lack of political support from the farm community lead to costly forms of compensation," they say, "but it

Continued on next page



War Prayer

by Mark Twain

To Dan Beard, who dropped in to see him, Clemens read the "War Prayer," stating that he had read it to his daughter Jean, and others, who had told him he must not print it, for it would be regarded as sacrilege. "Still, you are going to publish it, are you not?" Clemens, pacing up and down the room in his dressing-gown and slippers, shook his head. "No," he said, "I have told the whole truth in that, and only dead men can tell the truth in this world. It can be published after I am dead."

listen!	help us
"oh lord our father,	to turn them out roofless
	with their little children
our young patriots,	to wander unfriended
idols of our hearts,	the wastes
go forth to battle-	of their desolated land
be thou near them!	
	in rags and hunger
with them, in spirit	and thirst,
we also go forth	sports of the sun flames
from the sweet peace	of summer
of our beloved firesides	and the icy winds
to smite the foe.	of winter,
	broken in spirit,
o lord our god,	worn with travail,
	imploring thee
help us	for the refuge of the grave
to tear their soldiers	and denied it --
to bloody shreds	
with our shells;	for our sakes
	who adore thee, lord,
help us	blast their hopes,
to cover their smiling fields	blight their lives,
with the pale forms	protract their bitter pilgrimage,
of their patriot dead;	make heavy their steps,
	water their way with their tears,
help us	
to drown the thunder	stain the white snow
of the guns	with the blood
with the shrieks	of their wounded feet!
of their wounded,	
writhing in pain;	we ask it,
	in the spirit of love,
help us	of him who is the source of love,
to lay waste	
their humble homes	and who is the ever-faithful
with a hurricane of fire;	refuge and friend
	of all that are sore beset
help us	and seek his aid
to wring the hearts	with humble and contrite hearts.
of their unoffending widows	
with unavailing grief;	
	amen.

Young Resist Call to War Before Carnage Begins

by Colman McCarthy

WASHINGTON--As one of 2 million members of Greenpeace, Jeff Paterson is currently thinking more peace than green. He is the 22-year-old Marine Corps corporal currently in military prison in Hawaii for refusing to join the herd packed off to Saudi Arabia to fulfill George Bush's pledge, "Saddam Hussein will fail."

The prospect of fulfilling that mission by killing people led Paterson, a field artilleryman with nearly four years of service, to file for conscientious-objector status. "The U.S.," he said, "has no moral ground to stand on in the Persian Gulf....I cannot and will not be a pawn in America's power plays for profits and oil in the Middle East."

That frontal attack on the military ethic of blind-and-dumb obedience was too much for the Marines. In late August, they stuck Paterson in jail after he went on both a hunger strike and sit-down strike in refusing to be shipped out. A petition for his release has been filed with a military court of appeals, in addition to the processing of an application for conscientious-objector status.

Such antiwar and pacifist groups as the Friend's Central Committee for Conscientious Objection, the War Resisters League, Refuse and Resist and the Military Law Task Force report an upsurge in calls for help from both people in the military and civilians registered for the draft. The first group -- mostly low-ranking enlistees in the all-volunteer armed forces -- is more vulnerable to the kind of treatment being inflicted on Paterson. They are more easily found -- and threatened.

Without body counts in the desert or coffins being shipped back to grieving families, resistance to the latest exercise in American militarism is simmering more than boiling. But even a low temperature after seven weeks of no combat is significant. Eric Seitz, Paterson's lawyer and who has counseled and defended several thousand conscientious resisters since 1966, believes that the current objections by soldiers to serve in Saudi Arabia are Stronger and more numerous than at a comparative point in the Vietnam War: "The first resistance in the military came in 1966, three years after troops went over and the first deaths. The protests now are much further along."

That's cause for celebration. It suggests that this generation of front-line grunts isn't smarter, only smarter sooner. Conscientious objection to war is being replaced with a more needed and more intelligent resistance; conscientious objection to war preparation. Resist the state's bugle calls before the carnage, not after.

The unreported story of the 1980s is that defiance of the military has been common. The 1980 draft registration law, initiated by Jimmy Carter, lately Mr. Global Peacemaker, required 18-year-old males to sign up at the local post office. By 1985, 500,000 young men refused. Only 10 of these honorable lawbreakers were convicted, with jail time averaging less than two months.

Stephen Kohn reports in "Jailed for Peace: the History of American Draft Law Violators, 1658-1985," that "even if the government prosecuted a thousand resisters annually, it would require more than 500 years to deal with the 1980-84 non-registrants alone....Given the plethora of prosecutorial complications, fewer draft prosecutions have occurred under the 1980 registration law than under any other draft law in American history."

The Saudi Arabian encampment of 150,000 men and women by month's end is a war-planner's dream: the hoopla of a fast and large buildup of land, air and sea forces, an enemy leader easily demonized, a pliant and cheering mass media, and political opposition so tepid that even Jesse Jackson -- the former Martin Luther King, Jr. disciple turned mainline Democrat -- salutes the Pentagon's intervention.

With those greases keeping the U.S. war machine in smooth function, the amazement is that any soldiers at all are saying no. Young men and women are lured into enlisting by the promise of college funds or job training. Recruitment ads and commercials portray the Pentagon as a kindly employment office offering the skills to get ahead, plus a wad of tuition money on the way out.

How many television commercials say, "Join the Air Force and learn how to drop bombs on men, women and children when a Gen. Dugan issues the order?" About as many as will be saying in coming weeks and months, "Come join the Army, the Saudis are ready to fight to the final American."

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Starving Iraqis Into Submission Won't Work

Continued from previous page

also becomes a major target of political opportunity."

Just recall how candidates Ronald Reagan and George Bush trumpeted "no more grain embargoes" in their Midwest campaign stops.

Then there's the question of effectiveness. Daft and Schertz say "an absolute ban on shipments will be difficult and costly to achieve," and they emphasize that recent history has no clear guide to the effect of hardship on the targeted country.

Given all this, they continue, "neither the response of U.S. farmers nor the ineffectiveness of the action is the primary reason why the U.S. should not" embargo food.

"Rather it is because world opinion will not allow such restraints to be applied effectively over significant periods of time.

"Imagine how the U.S. international political position and, in turn, its military posture in the Middle East would be undermined this coming winter if the evening news programs showed Iraqi children and elderly people starving to death.

"Neither Americans nor other free world people would pause to find out if the scenes were faked by Iraqi leaders."

Finally, Daft and Schertz point out that the food embargo can't even be used as a bargaining chip by a country that seeks the high moral ground.

Bush has painted himself into a corner with the food embargo. It's difficult to be righteous about starving a people into submission.

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If World War II was about keeping the world safe from dictatorship and the Cold War about keeping the world safe for free will and democracy, this incipient war in the Gulf is about keeping the world safe for consumption.

---Doug Siglin

a r e a e v e n t s

DANCE

Oct. 12-14

"Romeo and Juliet" is presented by Ballet Omaha at the Orpheum Theater. Curtain times are 8 p.m. Fri & Sat, 2 p.m. Sun. Tickets start at \$12. For reservations call 346-7394.

EVENTS

Oct. 6 & 7

31st Annual Omaha Coin Show at Western Heritage Museum, 801 So. 10th Street, Sat 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sun 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Oct. 6 & 7

Octobertrek, a 100-mile two-day bike trek with an overnight stay in Louisville. Trip includes two meals, repair/sag support and professional sports massage. Call Chuck Stepanek at 1-474-5858 for information.

Oct. 6 & 7

Ft. Atkinson State Historical Park general interpretive day from 1-5 p.m. features living history displays. The park is in Ft. Calhoun, nine miles north of Omaha. Call (402) 468-5611 for more information.

Oct. 7

Fall Fest at Fontenelle Forest, 1111 Bellevue Blvd. in Bellevue. Nature exhibits, family activities, music and more from noon-5 p.m.

Oct. 12

Children's Hospital Bazaar features handmade crafts, baked goods, and more at Regency Fashion Court, 102nd and Regency Parkway at 7 p.m. Free.

Oct. 14-Nov. 11

Fall Auto Tour of Desoto Wildlife Refuge to view migratory snow geese and other waterfowl. Entry fee is charged. Call (712) 642-4121 for information.

Oct. 16-17

Ringling Bros. Barnum & Bailey Circus at the Omaha Civic Auditorium. Call 444-4750 for ticket information.

Oct. 20

Coronation Ball at Ak-Sar-Ben, 63rd & Center Street, a fund-raising event for the Ak-Sar-Ben scholarship fund. For information, call 556-2305.

Oct. 27-31

Trick or Treat on 10th Street, a safe Halloween celebration for pre-school through elementary age children at the Western Heritage Museum. Includes trick-or-treating at houses along a miniature street in the museum building. Dates and times are: Oct. 27, 29 and 30 noon-5 p.m. and Oct. 31 10 a.m.-9 p.m.

EXHIBITS & DISPLAYS

Through Nov. 4

"Midlands Invitational 1990" at Joslyn Art Museum, 2200 Dodge. Admission \$2. Hours are Mon, Wed, Fri 7 Sat 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Thurs 10 a.m.-9 p.m., Sun noon-5 p.m. Call 342-3300 for more information.

Oct. 5-Nov. 30

"Isabella Threlkeld and Steven Polchert" display two-dimensional work and pottery at the Metro Arts Artspace, 601 So. 16th. Hours are 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Mon-Fri and admission is free.

Oct. 6-27

"8th Annual Wildlife Art Show and Sale" at Desoto National Wildlife Refuge Visitor's Center, daily from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Call (712) 642-4121 for information.

Oct. 20-Dec. 16

"The Modern Pictorialism of D.J. Ruzicka" at Joslyn Art Museum, 2200 Dodge. Admission \$2. Hours are Mon, Wed, Fri 7 Sat 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Thurs 10 a.m.-9 p.m., Sun noon-5 p.m. Call 342-3300 for more information.

FILM

Sheldon Film Theater. The Sheldon Film Theater presents foreign and independent films at the Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery on the University of Nebraska Lincoln campus, 12th and R. Call (402) 472-5353 for more information. The schedule:

Oct. 4-6 & 11-14

"Longtime Companion" a 1990 film by Norman Rene will show at 7 & 9:15 p.m. with matinees Sat at 12:45 & 3 p.m. and on Sun at 2:30 & 4:45 p.m.

Oct. 7

"A Hungarian Fairy Tale" a 1988 Hungarian film by Gyula Gazdag shows at 3, 5, 7 & 9 p.m.

Oct. 18-30 & 25-28

"Common Threads: Stories from the Quilt," a 1989 film by Robert Epstein & Jeffrey Friedman. Shows at 7 & 9 p.m. with matinees Sat at 1 & 3 p.m. and Sun at 3 & 5 p.m.

Oct. 21

"The Lair of the White Worm," a 1988 UK film by Ken Russell shows at 3, 5, 7 & 9 p.m.

Oct. 31-Nov. 3 & Nov. 7-11

"A Tribute to New Day Films" with filmmakers Liane Brandon and James Klein in person. Call for schedule.

Sept. 1-Oct. 14

Weekend Wildlife Film Series at the Desoto

National Wildlife Refuge Visitor's Center, at 1:30 and 2:45 p.m. with free admission. Call (712) 642-4121 for information.

Oct. 14

Joslyn Film Series presents "Sugarbaby" at 2 and 4:30 p.m. with general admission of \$3.50. Call 342-3300 for more information.



MUSIC & DANCE

Oct. 3

The Make Believe Brass at Joslyn's Witherspoon Concert Hall, 2200 Dodge, 11 a.m. with \$10 admission. Call 558-1142 for reservations.

Oct. 3

Matt Haimovitz Cello Recital presented by Tuesday Musical Concert Series, 8 p.m. at Joslyn. Admission is \$20; \$10 students.

Oct. 5 & 6

"An Evening of Rodgers and Hammerstein," part of the Omaha Symphony Superpops Series, 8 p.m. at the Orpheum Theater. For reservations and ticket information call 342-3560.

Oct. 7

Bagels & Bach Concert Series at Joslyn Art Museum features a light brunch and music by the Boland-Dowdall guitar duo. Doors open for brunch at 10:30 a.m. and the concert begins at 11:15. A gallery talk on "Midlands Invitational 1990" follows at 1 p.m. General admission is \$7.50. Call 342-3300 for more information.

Oct. 18 & 20

Leila Josefowicz, violinist, in concert with the Omaha Symphony at 8 p.m. at the Orpheum Theater. Call 342-3560 for ticket information.

Oct. 28

Justifiably Acoustic Music and Metro Arts present a concert of country and folk music featuring regulars from the "Prairie Home Companion" radio show. At 7:30 p.m. at the Metro Arts Artspace, 601 So. 16th. General admission \$7 advance, \$9 day of the show. Call 493-4304 for ticket information.

Oct. 28

Zoo Halloween Party at Henry Doorly Zoo noon-4 p.m. Admission is \$5.25 for adults, \$2.75 for children 5-11, and free for those under age five.

SPORTS

Oct. 27 & 28

Riverfront Marathon and Health & Fitness Expo, The Expo on the 27th is at the Peter Kiewit Conference Center, 13th and Farnam, from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. with free admission. The 17th annual running of the 26.2 mile and 10K races with more than 1,600 runners, is on the 28th. The race begins at 8:15 a.m. near the Civic Auditorium at 19th and Capital. No admission for spectators. For entry information call 558-9076.

THEATER

Through Oct. 14

"Pump Boys and Dinettes" at the Firehouse Dinner & Theatre, 11th and Jackson. Tue-Sat dinner at 6 p.m., show at 7:30 p.m. Sun dinner at noon and 5 p.m., show at 1:30 and 6:30 p.m. Wed dinner at 11 a.m. show at 12:30 p.m. Admission ranges from \$12-\$18.50 for show only, \$20-\$24.50 for dinner and show. Call 346-8833 for information.

Through Oct. 27

"Chapter II," by Neil Simon at the Upstairs Dinner Theater, 221 So. 19th Street. Thurs-Sat 6 p.m., Wed & Sun at noon. Dinner and show \$14.95-\$22.95. For information call 344-7777.

Through Oct. 7

"Big River" at the Omaha Community Playhouse, 69th and Cass. Tue-Sat 8 p.m., Sun 2 & 6 p.m. Adult admission \$15 Sun and weekdays, \$18 weekends. Call 553-0800 for information.

Oct. 11-13, 18-20 & 25-27

"Lawyers!" is presented by the Omaha Workshop Theatre at 1417 Farnam Street at 8 p.m. General admission tickets at \$5.50 are available from TIX.

Through Oct. 14

"Last Stand of the Polish Sharpshooters," at the Omaha Community Playhouse Fonda/McGuire series, 69th & Cass. Thurs-Sat 8 p.m., Sun 2:30 and 6:30 p.m. General adult admission is \$11. Call 553-0800 for information.

Oct. 4-28

"California Suite," by Neil Simon at the Grande Olde Players Theater, 701 So. 39th Street. Thurs-Sat at 8 p.m. and Sun at 2 p.m. General admission is \$7. Call 391-7888 for information.

Continued on following page

a r t e x h i b i t s

Adam Whitney Gallery

8725 Shamrock Road, Omaha
393-1051
Hours: 10-5 Monday through Saturday

Anderson O'Brien Gallery

8724 Pacific St.
Through Oct. 6: Works by Barry Monohon.

Antiquarium Gallery

1215 Harney Street, Omaha
341-8077

Artists' Cooperative Gallery

405 So. 11th Street, Omaha
342-9617
Hours: Wed.-Thurs. 11-5; Fri. & Sat. 11-10; Sunday noon - 5.
Oct. 3-31: Work by members Joan Frost, Emmy Gifford and Linda Meigs.
Oct. 6: Opening for October show, 7-10 p.m.

Bellevue College Gallery

Galvin Road at Harvell Drive, Bellevue
293-3732
Hours: 8 a.m.-10 p.m. M-F; 9-5 Sat.; 1-5 Sun.
Through Oct. 19: "Joseph Davis: A Photographic View"

Bemis New Gallery

614 So. 11th, Omaha
341-7130
Hours: 11-5 daily.
Through Oct. 28: "Introductions: Painting." Works by Malcolm Christhlf, Peter Cole, Chris Connell, Marc Dennis, Jesse Hickman, Bruce Hogeland, Christina Narwicz, and Philip Robl.
Oct. 12-14: The AIDS Quilt will be on display.
Oct. 18: Bemis Slide Lecture. Artist to be announced.

Burkholder Project

719 P Street, Lincoln
477-3305
Hours: 10-5 Monday thru Saturday
Anne Burkholder, October; Holiday Gifts, December.

Cathedral Arts Project

St. Cecilia's Cathedral
701 No. 40th Street
558-3100
Hours 1-3:30 p.m. Thursday-Sunday and by appointment.

Council Bluffs Artist's Loft

407 W. Broadway, Council Bluffs
Hours: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon-Fri; noon-4 p.m. Sat.

Creighton Fine Arts Gallery

Creighton University
27th and California, Omaha

280-2509

Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Saturday; noon-4 Sunday.
Through Oct. 11: Manriquez/Samotis
Oct. 24 - Nov. 18: Littleton Alston

Eyesound Gallery

105 N. 50th

Gallery 72

2709 Leavenworth, Omaha 345-3347
Through Oct. 11: "Perceptions," work by five artists whose work was previously shown at the gallery and will be in the Joslyn Invitational exhibit: Kay Miller, Warren Rosser, Gary Day, Signe Stuart and Jeff Freeman.
Oct. 12: Opening for Gordon Cook show, 7:30-10 p.m.
Oct. 12-Nov. 5: "Gordon Cook: Twenty Etchings"

Garden of the Zodiac

Old Market Passageway, 1042 Howard, Omaha.
341-1877
Through Oct. 21: Bertille de Baudiniere

Haydon Gallery

335 N. 8th, Hardy Building, Lincoln
475-5421
Hours: Mon-Sat 10-5.
Oct. 5: Opening for Susan Knight, 7-9 p.m., with a talk by the artist from 7:30-8.
Oct. 5-27: Susan Knight, "Oils/Mixed Media: Seated Images."

Haymarket Art Gallery

119 So. 9th Street, Lincoln
475-1061
Hours: 10-4:30 Tues.-Sat.; 1-4 Sunday.
Mondays by appointment.
Oct. 7: Opening reception for Vanderlinden and Martin, 2-4 p.m.
Oct. 7-27: Jan Vanderlinden and Gary Martin, serigraphs and ceramics.

Hillmer Art Gallery

College of St. Mary, 1901 So. 72nd Street, Omaha
399-2621
Hours: 1-5 daily except Friday.

Iowa Western Community College Fine Arts Gallery

2700 College Road, Council Bluffs
325-3352
Hours: 8 a.m. - 10 p.m. Mon.-Fri.

Jewish Community Center

333 So. 132nd St., Omaha
334-8200
Hours: 8 a.m.-10 p.m. M-Th.; 8-5 Fri.; 1-7 Sat.; 1-7 Sun.
Through Oct. 15: David Mallin, "Bright Shadows."

Joslyn Art Museum

2200 Dodge, Omaha
342-3300
Hours: 10-5 Tues., Wed., Fri. & Sat.; 10-9 Thurs.; 1-5 Sunday.
Admission: \$2 for adults, \$1 under 12.
Free Saturday before noon and to members.
Through Nov. 4: "Midlands Invitational 1990."
Oct. 20 - Dec. 16: "The Modern Pictorialism of D.J. Ruzicka."

Local Artists Exchange

Standard Blue
1415 Harney, Omaha
Hours: 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon-Fri; noon-4 p.m. Sat & Sun.

Metro Arts Artspace

601 So. 16th Street
341-7910
Hours: Mon-Fri 9-4 or by appointment.
Oct. 5 - Nov. 30: "Isabella Threlkeld and Steven Polchert" two-dimensional work and pottery.

Museum of Nebraska Art

24th and Central Ave., Kearney
(308) 234-8559
Hours: 1-5 Tuesday thru Saturday
Through Oct. 31: Prairie Light Arts Showcase juried show.

Nouvelle Eve

1102 Howard
Through Oct. 13: "Women's Work."

Passageway Gallery

417 So. 11th, Omaha
341-1910
Hours: 11-5 M-W; 11-9 Thurs.; 11-10 Fri. & Sat.; 12-5 Sun.

Photographer's Gallery, Inc.

4831 Dodge Street, Omaha
551-5731
Hours: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Mon.-Fri.; 1-5 Sun.; Closed Sat.; or by appointment anytime.

Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery

12th and R Streets, UNL Campus, Lincoln
472-2461
Hours: Tues. & Wed. 10-5; Sun. 2-9; Thurs.-Sat. 10-5 and 7-9; closed Mon.
Through Oct. 14: "John Pfahl: Altered Landscapes," a portfolio of 48 manipulated photographs from the Sheldon's permanent collection.
Through Oct. 28: "In Black and White," a selection of works, mostly from the Sheldon permanent collection, which use only black and white. Selected by Curator Daphne Deeds.
Through Nov. 25: "Master Prints from a Nebraska Collection."

13th Street Gallery

1264 So. 13th Street, Omaha
Mixed media

University of Nebraska at Omaha Gallery

616 S. 11th Street (second floor in CAT)
Hours: 10-5 Monday-Friday
Through Oct. 19: UNO/Guangzhou Exhibition
Oct. 24 - Nov. 16: UNO Student Exhibition

Area events

From previous page

Oct 5.-Nov. 10

"Airlooms" by Virginia Glasgow Koste at the Circle Theater, performed at Vidlak's Cafe, 6064 Maple. Dinner at 7 p.m., show at 8 p.m. Dinner and show \$12-\$13, show only \$7-\$8. Call 553-4715 for information.

Oct. 23-Nov. 25

"Nights at the Round Table" at the Firehouse Dinner & Theatre, 11th & Jackson Street. Tue-Sat dinner at 6 p.m., show at 7:30 p.m. Sun dinner at noon and 5 p.m., show at 1:30 and 6:30 p.m. Wed dinner at 11 a.m. show at 12:30 p.m. Admission ranges from \$12-\$18.50 for show only, \$20-\$24.50 for dinner and show. Call 346-8833 for information.

Oct. 19-Nov. 4

"The Colored Museum" at the Center Stage, 30th and R Street. A series of comedy sketches with music. Shows Fri & Sat at 8 p.m.; Sun at 3 p.m. Call 733-5777 for information.

Oct. 19-Nov. 11

"Deathtrap" is at the Omaha Community Playhouse, 69th & Cass Street. Showtimes 8 p.m. Tue-Sat, 2:30 & 6 p.m. Sun. General admission \$10 weekdays, \$13 weekends. Call 553-0800 for reservations.

Oct. 31-Jan. 19

"My One and Only" at the Upstairs Dinner Theater, 221 So. 19th Street. The George Gershwin musical comedy shows at 6 p.m. Thur-Sat and at noon on Wed & Sun. Includes dinner buffet. Call 344-7777 for reservations.

Oct. 26-Nov. 18

"The Chicago Gypsies" at the Emmy Gifford Children's Theater, 3504 Center. Performances Fri at 7 p.m.; Sat & Sun at 2 p.m. Admission is \$8.

How to Vote in At-Large Elections: Sparingly

by Frances Mendenhall

Douglas County has three governmental bodies -- OPPD, MUD and the County Board of Supervisors -- that are controlled by advantaged white males. Not coincidentally, the members of these three boards are elected at-large.

Few people actually do it because it is very

boring, but if you were to drop in on a typical meeting of the Douglas County Board, you would see items voted on with very little debate. It is hard to gain an understanding of whose interests are being served and what issues are really at stake. That is because the real decision making is done before the meet-

ing takes place. This "old boys" network in action is surely not what the authors of Nebraska's open-meeting laws had in mind. It is also a reflection of the systemic effect that at-large elections have in electing incumbent white males with money and name recognition.

In the Legislative session before last Sen. Ernie Chambers passed a bill mandating district elections in Douglas County, but Gov. Orr vetoed it. The bill didn't come up at all last session.

So, in November voters in Douglas County will find at-large races on the ballot for all three boards. Important issues relating to the environment, preservation of what's left of Omaha's historic buildings, health care, nuclear power, conservation, and recycling are at stake. It would be nice to be assured of a way to elect independent people who had a broad constituency. With that in mind, I made up some rules for myself about voting in at-large elections.

First, do not vote for incumbents unless they are extremely valuable and at risk of losing. They will probably win without your vote anyway, and every vote for an incumbent weakens the vote you cast for any challenger.

Second, it is not required that you cast all possible votes. It is not even one bit unpatriotic to undervote. For example, the ballot for Douglas County Board now has six names on it, but one has withdrawn since the ballots were printed. That leaves only five candidates. The ballot instructs you to vote for up to three, but there might not be three that you like. Do not weaken an enlightened vote by voting for someone you're not sure about.

Third, never vote on name recognition alone. This is almost certainly a vote influenced by racism, sexism, and elitism. The MUD ballot is a good example of this. It has many old Omaha family names on it, but the

potential for confusing voters is high. If you do not have real issues to support voting for a certain person, better not to put a mark beside his/her name.

Nationwide there is a widespread mood of anti-incumbency. A recent election in Oklahoma limited terms of elected officials to 12 years. Another movement, "THRO," short for "Throw the Hypocritical Rascals Out," placed an ad in the World-Herald trying to raise money and consciousness to vote every incumbent senator and congressperson out of office. It seems likely that the election in Nebraska will reflect some of the same spirit, because of the presence on the ballot of two tax limiting issues; the kind of voter drawn to such an election is probably the same kind of person who would want to sack an incumbent, any incumbent. So there is a good chance that by adding an enlightened vote to the existing forces of anti-incumbency that some real alternative candidates can be put in office.

Women, Minorities Don't Win Local At-Large Elections

According to Sen. Ernie Chambers, there has never been a minority or woman elected to the Douglas County Board of Supervisors.

There have never been any minority members of the OPPD board, but two women, Rosemary Skrupa and Mary Alice Race have been elected to it in the past, and one woman, Gail Stock, has been appointed.

No minority members have ever been elected to the MUD board, but one minority person, Leon Evans was appointed, and one woman, Mary Kay Begley was elected and is now serving.

Douglas County's At-Large Candidates

Approximately one third of the seats on the utility boards are rotated every two years, and one half of the seats on the Douglas County Board. This year OPPD has two contested at-large seats, MUD has two, and the Douglas County Board has three.

MUD Board

At-large, vote for up to two

Bill Cavanaugh*

Barry Nelson

Mark Doyle

John McCollister*

Outside Omaha**, vote for one.

Joe Cascio*

Don Krupa

OPPD Board

At-large, vote for up to two

Rita Carroll

Eugene Mahoney*

Ben Ewing

Frank Wear

North district**

Dennis Jorgensen

Douglas County Board

All at-large, vote for up to three

R.J. Brown

Steve McCollister

Dan Chambers***

Steve Rosenblatt*

Mike Albert*

Walter M. Calinger

*Incumbent

**This person must live outside Omaha. Since only one seat is so designated, it is not an at-large election.

***Withdrawn since ballots were printed

So...one vote doesn't matter?

One vote:

Made Oliver Cromwell Lord Protector of the Commonwealth and gave him control of England (1645).

Caused Charles I to be executed (1649).

Kept Aaron Burr--later charged with treason--from becoming President (1800).

Elected Marcus Morton governor of Massachusetts (1839).

Made Texas part of the United States (1845).

Saved President Andrew Johnson from impeachment (1868).

Changed France from a monarchy to a republic (1875).

Admitted California, Oregon, Washington, and Idaho to the Union (1850, 1850, 1889, 1890).

Made three of our early presidents head of our country, over their opponents: Thomas Jefferson, John Quincy Adams, and Rutherford B. Hayes.

Elected Rutherford B. Hayes to the presidency, and the man in the electoral college who cast that vote was an Indiana representative also elected by one vote (1876).

Made Adolph Hitler head of the Nazi Party (1923).

Maintained the Selective Service System only 12 weeks before Pearl Harbor (1941).

Per precinct would have elected Richard Nixon rather than John Kennedy President (1960).

Adapted from NEA Series in Practical Politics

Nebraska postscript: Ben Nelson beat Bill Hoppner in last spring's Democratic primary by fewer than one vote per county.

How About a Nickname for the Fountain?

The Nebraska Observer is pleased to announce its "Nickname the Fountain" contest.

Since ConAgra and the county officials dedicated the Heartland of America Fountain, the local equivalent of St. Louis' Gateway Arch, many have noticed that it doesn't always perform as promised, that it is closed off to the public at certain times, and that you can get wet if you're downwind of the thing. Hence, we have established three categories of submission:

1. Fidelity and reliability
2. Describing dysfunction
3. Privacy of ownership.

All entries must be PG rated, of course.

Send all entries to the Nebraska Observer, P.O. Box 31383, Omaha, NE 68131 by October 25.

We will announce the winners in the next issue, but we don't promise to publish them.

First prize is an all expenses paid one-way trip for two to Knoxville, Tenn.

Second prize is a Healthy Choice Dinner.

Third prize is a reduction in your capital gains.

Each category will be awarded all three levels of prizes.